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The University of Massachusetts McCormack Institute Poll

Taking the Pulse of Massachusetts.

Public Policy/Public Attitudes.

Education and the Economy

- Charter Schools
- Gender Gaps?
- Casino Gambling

Louis DiNatale, Poll Director

Sponsored by

The University of Massachusetts President's Office and the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, University of Massachusetts-Boston

THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS/MCCORMACK INSTITUTE POLL

This report sets forth the findings of the first University of Massachusetts/McCormack Institute Poll. The poll is a joint effort of the Economic Project of the University of Massachusetts President's Office and the McCormack Institute for Public Affairs, located at the University of Massachusetts--Boston campus.

The University of Massachusetts/McCormack InstitutePoll is an omnibus survey research vehicle designed to measure the attitudes of Massachusetts residents toward topical concerns in the social, economic and political life of the Commonwealth. It is conducted and its results are published on a quarterly basis.

On a number of fronts, the University of Massachusetts/McCormack Institute Poll will track attitudes over time. It will also measure concerns that are of immediate interest to the general public, elected officials, leaders of business and labor as well as university policy analysts. The next report of the University of Massachusetts/McCormack Institute Poll, the Winter Edition, will appear in January of 1997.

The staff and Director of the poll are actively interested in public comments on the findings as well as suggestions for prospective areas of inquiry. Researchers may also purchase survey space for specific projects. We invite comments and suggestions as well as requests via e-mail: Mccorminst@umbsky.cc.umb.edu

The Advisory Board of the University of Massachusetts/McCormack Institute Poll:

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METHODOLOGY

The following data summarize findings from a telephone survey conducted during the period of October 1, 1996 to October 3, 1996. Interviews were conducted by professionally trained interviewers under the supervision of the Public Affairs Research Center at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.

A random digit dial sample was drawn using the Waksberg method. Quotas were met for sampling location and gender. A random respondent selection was used. A total sample of 527 Massachusetts residents, including 448 registered voters, was achieved; results from this sample can be interpreted as accurate to within 5% with a 95% level of confidence. Respondent cooperation, response rate and call completion were satisfactory. The sample performed within expectations for a random digit dial sample.

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THE ECONOMY

Its Current Condition

The economic mood of the public is upbeat. Overall, 57% choose a positive view of the condition of the state's economy, while 41% regard it as fair or poor. The public assessment also varies by gender, education, income and region.

More men are than women hold positive views. Men hold such views of the economy by a 24-point margin, 61% to 37%. Among women, the margin of those holding positive views is only 8 points, at 52% to 44%.

More of those with higher education choose positive views. Among the 40% of those surveyed who have four-year college degrees or postgraduate training, positive views exceed negative views by 41 points, 69% to 28%. Among the 33% who have a high school diploma or less, negative views exceed positive by a margin of eight points, 44% to 52%.

More of those with higher incomes choose positive views. Among the 28% who report yearly household incomes above $50,00, positives exceed negatives by 44 points, 71% to 27%. Among the 40% with incomes under $50,000, positives exceed negatives by nine points, 53% to 44%.

The Near Future

The public's sense of what economic conditions will be like in the next 12 months isn't quite as upbeat: Overall, 29% expect economic conditions to get better, 49% expect them to stay the same, and 12% expect them to get worse. Thus, for the state at large, "better" exceeds "worse" by 17 points.

The demographic variations that mark the public view of the current economy are relatively slight in its view of the coming year, except for the divergence of Western Massachusetts. Among those in the 617 area code, 32% think the economy will get better and 12% think it get worse, a margin of 20 points. Among those in the 413 area code, 26% expect it to get better and 21% expect it to get worse, a margin of five points.

Among broad demographic groups, a significant variation exists by age. The 38% of those surveyed who are in the 40-to-60 age bracket are more likely to be optimistic: 35% of them see better economic conditions ahead, 10% see worse, a margin of 25 points. Among those younger than 40 and older than 60, some 25% choose "better" and some 12% choose "worse," a margin of 13 points.

Business Taxes

A majority of the public, 55%, now agrees with the view that state and local taxes on business are too high. Five per cent regard such taxes as too low, 19% see them as about right, and the other 20% volunteer that they don't know or don't have an opinion.

Education appears to play a role in shaping the public view of this topic. Among college graduates and postgraduates, 47% regard business taxes as too high, and five per cent view them as too low, for a margin of 42 points.

Among those with a high school diploma or less, 65% regard business taxes as too high and four per cent regard them as too low, a margin of 61 points.

	QUESTION 1						QUESTION 2				
	Describe the Massachusetts Economy						Condition of the Mass Economy, Next 12 Months				TOTAL
	excel lent	very good	good	fair	poor	no op dk	get beter	get worse	stay same	no op dk	
RESPNDTS..	10%	16%	31%	32%	9%	3%	29%	12%	49%	11%	527
registered voter											
yes.....	10%	17%	31%	32%	9%	2%	28%	13%	50%	9%	448
no.....	12%	7%	30%	33%	7%	10%	33%	10%	37%	19%	67
not sure DK.....	8%	25%	33%	33%			33%		58%	8%	12
AREA											
617 area..	12%	20%	28%	29%	7%	3%	32%	12%	47%	9%	179
508 area..	9%	13%	34%	31%	10%	2%	28%	10%	52%	10%	277
413 area..	6%	14%	24%	40%	7%	9%	26%	21%	39%	14%	70
PARTY5											
democrat..	13%	21%	28%	27%	9%	3%	39%	9%	45%	7%	179
lean dem..	4%	16%	36%	27%	11%	4%	23%	9%	56%	12%	91
ind & other..	10%	8%	29%	41%	9%	3%	23%	16%	49%	13%	140
lean rep..	6%	12%	35%	40%	6%	2%	17%	15%	60%	8%	52
republican	12%	20%	31%	25%	8%	5%	31%	14%	40%	15%	65
AGE3											
under 40..	7%	9%	37%	36%	7%	3%	24%	12%	53%	11%	201
40 to 60..	17%	18%	25%	27%	11%	3%	35%	10%	47%	8%	199
60 & over.	3%	24%	29%	33%	8%	4%	27%	14%	44%	15%	114
EDUC3											
HS & less.	3%	12%	29%	37%	15%	4%	26%	14%	46%	13%	182
2yr+some..	15%	14%	24%	35%	8%	3%	36%	15%	42%	8%	143
coll+post.	12%	20%	37%	25%	3%	2%	26%	8%	55%	10%	201
INCOME4											
30K+less..	3%	12%	38%	27%	16%	3%	25%	10%	52%	14%	124
30-50K....	11%	17%	26%	42%	4%	1%	31%	12%	50%	7%	127
50K+over..	18%	20%	33%	22%	5%	2%	32%	9%	54%	5%	146
refused...	6%	14%	24%	38%	12%	5%	24%	18%	40%	19%	113
GENDER											
Male.....	11%	18%	32%	29%	8%	2%	27%	13%	49%	11%	253
Female....	9%	13%	30%	35%	9%	5%	31%	11%	48%	10%	274

QUESTION 3

	Are Business Taxes Too High/Toolow/About Right				TOTAL
	too high	too low	about right	no op dk	
RESPNDTS..	55%	5%	19%	20%	527
registered voter					
yes.....	55%	6%	20%	19%	448
no.....	57%	4%	13%	25%	67
not sure DK.....	58%		17%	25%	12
AREA					
617 area..	51%	7%	20%	22%	179
508 area..	62%	4%	17%	18%	277
413 area..	40%	9%	26%	26%	70
PARTY5					
democrat..	51%	7%	25%	16%	179
lean dem..	47%	7%	25%	21%	91
ind & other..	58%	5%	11%	26%	140
lean rep..	71%	2%	15%	12%	52
republican	57%	2%	15%	26%	65
AGE3					
under 40..	57%	3%	19%	21%	201
40 to 60..	54%	9%	22%	15%	199
60 & over.	53%	4%	18%	26%	114
EDUC3					
HS & less.	65%	4%	12%	19%	182
2yr+some..	55%	6%	15%	24%	143
coll+post.	47%	5%	29%	19%	201
INCOME4					
30K+less..	61%	6%	15%	18%	124
30-50K....	54%	7%	24%	15%	127
50K+over..	53%	5%	23%	18%	146
refused...	49%	4%	15%	33%	113
GENDER					
Male.....	57%	4%	22%	17%	253
Female....	53%	6%	17%	23%	274

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Quality Ratings

Two-thirds of the public, 66%, give a positive rating to the overall quality of the education that is provided by the five campuses of the University of Massachusetts system. Eight percent give its quality a negative rating.

(The other 26% volunteer that they either don't know or have no opinion)

Demographically, members of three groups are somewhat more likely to hold a positive view of the University system's overall educational quality:

>Those in the 40-to-60 age bracket: 73% of them rate it positively.

>Those in the $40,000-to-$75,000 income range: 73% rate it positively.

>Those with some college or a four-year degree: 76% rate it positively.

Further, 32% of the public say they agree with this statement: "The quality of education at the five campuses of the University of Massachusetts system has improved over the last year." Ten percent say that they disagree. Thus, the percentage agreeing exceeds the share disagreeing by 22 points.

(The remaining 58% volunteer that they are unable to offer a rating.)

Demographically, more of those in the 40-to-60 age bracket than the public see an improvement: 40% of people of this age agree and eight per cent disagree, for a positive margin of 32 points. More of those over 60 are less likely than the general public to see improvement: 21% agree, and 10% disagree, for a positive margin of 11 points.

Finally, 20% of the public has a great deal of confidence in the people in charge of running the five campuses of the University of Massachusetts, 28% says it has some confidence, and six per cent says it has hardly any.

(Forty-four per cent volunteer that they don't know or have no opinion.)

The level of this sentiment tends to be consistent across major demographic groups. Age figures in a slight variation. More of those in the 40-to-60 group have confidence in those in charge of the five-campuses: 27% of them have a great deal of confidence, six percent have hardly any, for a positive margin of 21 points. More of those over 60 do not have as much confidence: 13% have a great deal, six percent have hardly any, a margin of seven points.

Its Economic Development Role

Four-fifths of the public believes it is important for the University of Massachusetts to be actively engaged in economic development: 80% say it is important or somewhat important,

nine percent say it's not important at all. The remaining 12% volunteer that they don't know or have no opinion.

Among demographic groups, the sharpest variation is by age. More of those under the age of 60 support an active economic development role for the University. Half the under-60s believe such a role is very important, while seven per cent say it isn't important at all, for a margin of 43 points. A quarter of the over-60s believe it is very important, and 15 per cent believe it isn't important at all, for a margin of 50 points.

Demographically, the level of education stands out. Among those with at least two years of college, 55% rate research as very important. The not-important-at-all percentage is zero, for a margin of 55 points. Among those with a high school diploma or less, 44% rate it as very important, and five percent rate it as not important at all. Thus, the margin is 39 points.

Eighty-seven percent give an important rating to the research the University does for the express purpose of promoting business. Those who make up 47 of these points rate it as very important. Four per cent of the sample rates it as not important at all.

Income seems to be a leading demographic factor. Among those with household incomes above $30,000, 53% see business-oriented research as very important, and four percent see it as not important at all, a margin of 49 points. Among those with incomes below $30,000, 39% rate it very important, and six percent rate it not important at all, a margin of 36 points.

Eighty-seven per cent also give an important rating to the teaching of older, returning students. Those who make up 53 of these points see it as very important, and four per cent of the sample see it as not important at all.

Public views of this University service vary with the level of education. Among those with a high school diploma or less, 40% see it as very important, and five percent see it as not important at all, a 35-point margin. Among graduates and postgraduates, the margin is 59 points, since 62% see it as very important, while three percent see it as not important at all.

Eighty-six percent give an important rating to the University's graduate teaching. Those who make up 51 of these points give it the highest rating, and three per cent of the sample give it the lowest, for a 48-point margin.

Here, too, views vary with the level of education. Among those with high school and less, 34% give graduate teaching the highest rating, and four percent see it as not important at all, for a margin of 30 points. Among graduates and postgraduates, 61% give it the highest rating, and two per cent give it the lowest rating, for a margin of 59 points.

Eighty-three percent give an important rating to the University's undergraduate teaching. The very important option draws 49 of the points, and the not important at all option draws four points, for a margin of 45 points.

Demographically, age and education and income are all significant. More of those in the 40-to-60 age bracket rate undergraduate teaching as very important. Graduates and postgraduates are more likely to offer the top rating than are those with fewer years of formal education. Those in the $30,000-to-$50,000 income bracket are more likely to give the top rating than those in both the higher and the lower brackets.

Question 16

How Much Do you Know About the University of Mass					TOTAL
A Great Deal	Quite A Bit	Some thing	No thing	dk Not Sure	
11%	9%	36%	35%	8%	527
12%	10%	37%	32%	8%	448
9%	3%	33%	49%	6%	67
		42%	33%	25%	12
17%	4%	37%	32%	9%	179
9%	10%	34%	39%	8%	277
7%	17%	46%	24%	6%	70
15%	10%	34%	32%	10%	179
9%	7%	41%	32%	12%	91
11%	10%	31%	42%	5%	140
4%	10%	50%	33%	4%	52
12%	9%	38%	31%	9%	65
10%	9%	39%	36%	6%	201
15%	9%	37%	33%	7%	199
8%	10%	30%	36%	17%	114
4%	5%	26%	49%	16%	182
16%	7%	35%	35%	7%	143
14%	15%	47%	21%	2%	201
3%	6%	31%	45%	14%	124
21%	8%	38%	28%	6%	127
15%	14%	38%	32%	1%	146
6%	8%	41%	32%	13%	113
13%	11%	40%	30%	5%	253
10%	7%	33%	39%	11%	274

	Question 17						Question 18			TOTAL
	Rate the Overall Quality of UMASS Education						The Quality of UMASS Education Has Improved in the Past Year			
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	no op DK	Agree	Disagree	no op DK	
RESPNDTS..	17%	24%	25%	7%	1%	26%	32%	10%	58%	527
registered voter										
yes.....	17%	25%	25%	7%	1%	25%	33%	11%	57%	448
no.....	16%	25%	24%	4%		30%	33%	7%	60%	67
not sure DK.....	8%	17%	50%			25%	17%		83%	12
AREA										
617 area..	16%	23%	28%	7%	2%	25%	30%	12%	59%	179
508 area..	18%	24%	22%	6%	1%	29%	35%	8%	58%	277
413 area..	14%	30%	33%	7%	1%	14%	30%	16%	54%	70
PARTY5										
democrat..	18%	27%	26%	2%	2%	25%	40%	7%	53%	179
lean dem..	12%	27%	29%	9%	1%	22%	29%	15%	56%	91
ind & other..	18%	18%	27%	11%	1%	25%	29%	9%	61%	140
lean rep..	13%	27%	31%	4%	2%	23%	21%	13%	65%	52
republican	18%	25%	12%	8%		37%	31%	11%	58%	65
AGE3										
under 40..	13%	27%	26%	6%	1%	26%	31%	12%	57%	201
40 to 60..	22%	24%	27%	7%	1%	20%	40%	8%	52%	199
60 & over.	14%	22%	18%	7%	2%	38%	21%	10%	69%	114
EDUC3										
HS & less.	8%	19%	21%	7%	3%	42%	24%	9%	68%	182
2yr+some..	22%	28%	25%	3%	1%	20%	38%	10%	52%	143
coll+post.	21%	27%	29%	8%		15%	36%	11%	53%	201
INCOME4										
30K+less..	8%	19%	23%	7%	2%	40%	27%	12%	60%	124
30-50K....	17%	28%	29%	7%	1%	18%	39%	10%	51%	127
50K+over..	20%	34%	19%	8%	1%	18%	37%	10%	53%	146
refused...	20%	15%	33%	5%	1%	26%	24%	9%	67%	113
GENDER										
Male.....	19%	25%	24%	8%	1%	23%	36%	9%	55%	253
Female....	15%	24%	27%	6%	1%	28%	29%	11%	60%	274

	Question 19					Question 20				
	How Much Confidence Do You Have in the People Running UMASS					Is It Important UMASS Be Engaged in Economic Development				TOTAL
	Great deal	Some	Not Much	no op DK	Refused	Very Important	Some what	Not At All	no op DK	
RESPNDTS..	20%	28%	6%	44%	2%	45%	35%	9%	12%	527
registered voter										
yes.....	20%	29%	7%	42%	2%	45%	34%	10%	11%	448
no.....	21%	22%	1%	52%	3%	43%	37%	3%	16%	67
not sure DK.....	8%	25%		50%	17%	42%	25%	8%	25%	12
AREA										
617 area..	22%	25%	8%	42%	2%	45%	30%	11%	13%	179
508 area..	20%	26%	6%	45%	3%	47%	34%	8%	12%	277
413 area..	14%	44%	1%	40%		36%	49%	7%	9%	70
PARTY5										
democrat..	28%	29%	4%	35%	4%	46%	34%	8%	12%	179
lean dem..	8%	34%	4%	51%	3%	46%	37%	5%	11%	91
ind & other..	19%	19%	11%	51%	1%	46%	33%	8%	13%	140
lean rep..	13%	40%	6%	40%		46%	33%	13%	8%	52
republican	22%	26%	6%	46%		35%	38%	12%	14%	65
AGE3										
under 40..	17%	31%	6%	44%	1%	48%	35%	6%	11%	201
40 to 60..	27%	28%	6%	36%	4%	52%	33%	8%	7%	199
60 & over.	13%	25%	6%	55%	1%	27%	35%	15%	23%	114
EDUC3										
HS & less.	13%	20%	5%	58%	4%	34%	39%	9%	18%	182
2yr+some..	23%	33%	6%	38%	1%	50%	35%	6%	9%	143
coll+post.	24%	32%	7%	35%	1%	51%	30%	10%	8%	201
INCOME4										
30K+less..	9%	27%	5%	59%		31%	42%	7%	20%	124
30-50K....	24%	31%	4%	38%	2%	49%	40%	6%	5%	127
50K+over..	27%	30%	9%	34%	1%	54%	32%	12%	3%	146
refused...	19%	22%	8%	46%	5%	48%	24%	7%	21%	113
GENDER										
Male.....	20%	27%	9%	43%	2%	50%	32%	10%	8%	253
Female....	20%	29%	4%	45%	2%	40%	37%	7%	16%	274

	Question 21				Question 22				
	How Important is: University Research				How Important is: Offer Off Campus Programs				TOTAL
	Very Important	Some what	Not At All	no op DK	Very Important	Some what	Not At All	no op DK	
RESPNDTS..	52%	36%	2%	10%	42%	41%	6%	11%	527
registered voter									
yes.....	53%	35%	2%	9%	42%	41%	6%	11%	448
no.....	39%	45%	7%	9%	40%	43%	7%	9%	67
not sure DK.....	58%	17%		25%	33%	42%		25%	12
AREA									
617 area..	49%	36%	3%	12%	41%	40%	8%	12%	179
508 area..	52%	36%	2%	10%	40%	43%	5%	12%	277
413 area..	60%	34%	1%	4%	54%	36%	4%	6%	70
PARTY5									
democrat..	55%	32%	2%	11%	49%	32%	7%	12%	179
lean dem..	53%	36%	2%	9%	37%	49%	3%	10%	91
ind & other..	51%	39%	3%	6%	46%	39%	6%	9%	140
lean rep..	50%	38%	8%	4%	27%	58%	8%	8%	52
republican	43%	38%		18%	32%	46%	6%	15%	65
AGE3									
under 40..	51%	38%	3%	7%	43%	44%	6%	6%	201
40 to 60..	55%	37%	2%	7%	49%	39%	5%	8%	199
60 & over.	47%	31%	3%	19%	26%	41%	8%	25%	114
EDUC3									
HS & less.	44%	33%	5%	18%	31%	42%	7%	20%	182
2yr+some..	57%	33%	1%	8%	54%	34%	3%	9%	143
coll+post.	55%	41%	0%	3%	44%	45%	7%	4%	201
INCOME4									
30K+less..	40%	40%	5%	15%	33%	41%	6%	19%	124
30-50K....	57%	39%	1%	3%	46%	44%	6%	4%	127
50K+over..	57%	36%	3%	3%	46%	45%	7%	3%	146
refused...	53%	28%	1%	18%	44%	34%	4%	18%	113
GENDER									
Male.....	56%	33%	3%	8%	43%	41%	7%	9%	253
Female....	48%	39%	2%	11%	41%	42%	5%	13%	274

	Question 23				Question 24				
	How Important is: Undergraduate Teaching				How Important is:Tech Assists to Businesses				TOTAL
	Very Important	Somewhat	Not At All	no op DK	Very Important	Somewhat	Not At All	no op DK	
RESPNDTS..	49%	34%	4%	14%	38%	44%	8%	10%	527
registered voter									
yes.....	49%	34%	4%	13%	40%	43%	8%	10%	448
no.....	46%	36%	1%	16%	33%	49%	7%	10%	67
not sure DK.....	33%	25%		42%	25%	50%		25%	12
AREA									
617 area..	49%	32%	5%	14%	40%	40%	9%	11%	179
508 area..	46%	35%	3%	16%	38%	43%	7%	13%	277
413 area..	56%	36%	3%	6%	37%	56%	6%	1%	70
PARTY5									
democrat..	55%	30%	2%	13%	38%	45%	5%	12%	179
lean dem..	44%	38%	4%	13%	44%	40%	8%	9%	91
ind & other..	51%	32%	4%	12%	39%	43%	10%	9%	140
lean rep..	44%	35%	10%	12%	42%	42%	12%	4%	52
republican	34%	43%	2%	22%	28%	49%	6%	17%	65
AGE3									
under 40..	46%	39%	4%	11%	39%	46%	7%	7%	201
40 to 60..	57%	30%	3%	10%	46%	39%	9%	7%	199
60 & over.	39%	31%	4%	25%	26%	46%	6%	22%	114
EDUC3									
HS & less.	35%	36%	5%	24%	31%	43%	5%	20%	182
2yr+some..	50%	35%	3%	11%	43%	41%	7%	8%	143
coll+post.	60%	31%	2%	6%	41%	45%	10%	3%	201
INCOME4									
30K+less..	35%	40%	4%	22%	30%	47%	7%	16%	124
30-50K....	59%	30%	4%	7%	46%	42%	8%	4%	127
50K+over..	51%	39%	4%	5%	44%	45%	9%	3%	146
refused...	50%	27%	3%	20%	33%	42%	7%	19%	113
GENDER									
Male.....	48%	35%	6%	11%	42%	41%	8%	9%	253
Female....	49%	33%	1%	16%	35%	46%	7%	11%	274

	Question 25				Question 26				
	How Important is:Teach Older ReturningStudents				How Important is: Graduate Teaching				TOTAL
	Very Important	Somewhat	Not At All	no op DK	Very Important	Somewhat	Not At All	no op DK	
RESPNDTS..	53%	34%	4%	9%	51%	35%	3%	11%	527
registered voter									
yes.....	53%	35%	4%	8%	52%	35%	3%	11%	448
no.....	57%	28%	4%	10%	48%	39%	1%	12%	67
not sure DK.....	50%	25%		25%	50%	8%	8%	33%	12
AREA									
617 area..	53%	34%	4%	9%	51%	34%	3%	12%	179
508 area..	51%	34%	5%	10%	49%	35%	3%	13%	277
413 area..	60%	36%	3%	1%	57%	39%	1%	3%	70
PARTY5									
democrat..	55%	31%	4%	10%	57%	29%	2%	12%	179
lean dem..	57%	32%	2%	9%	53%	34%	3%	10%	91
ind & other..	56%	34%	4%	6%	50%	38%	3%	9%	140
lean rep..	38%	52%	8%	2%	44%	44%	4%	8%	52
republican	48%	32%	5%	15%	40%	38%	3%	18%	65
AGE3									
under 40..	55%	34%	5%	6%	51%	37%	4%	8%	201
40 to 60..	58%	32%	5%	6%	57%	34%	1%	8%	199
60 & over.	46%	35%	2%	18%	42%	31%	4%	23%	114
EDUC3									
HS & less.	40%	37%	5%	17%	34%	41%	4%	21%	182
2yr+some..	57%	33%	3%	6%	56%	33%	2%	9%	143
coll+post.	62%	32%	3%	2%	63%	30%	2%	4%	201
INCOME4									
30K+less..	47%	35%	5%	13%	40%	40%	3%	16%	124
30-50K....	54%	39%	4%	3%	57%	37%	1%	6%	127
50K+over..	62%	32%	5%	2%	57%	36%	3%	5%	146
refused...	52%	28%	4%	16%	52%	26%	4%	18%	113
GENDER									
Male.....	51%	35%	6%	8%	48%	38%	3%	11%	253
Female....	55%	33%	2%	9%	54%	32%	3%	12%	274

	Question 27				Question 28					
	How Important is: Doing Research for Business				How Important is the Nearest UMASS Campus to Local Economy					TOTAL
	Very Important	Somewhat	Not At All	no op DK	Very Important	Somewhat	Not Very	no op DK	Refused	
RESPNDTS..	46%	40%	4%	9%	37%	36%	13%	13%	1%	526
registered voter										
yes.....	46%	41%	4%	9%	38%	35%	14%	13%	0%	447
no.....	48%	39%	3%	10%	28%	45%	10%	16%		67
not sure DK.....	50%	25%		25%	25%	33%	25%	8%	8%	12
AREA										
617 area..	51%	36%	3%	10%	34%	33%	16%	16%		178
508 area..	44%	40%	5%	11%	35%	39%	12%	14%	1%	277
413 area..	47%	49%	3%	1%	51%	34%	13%	1%		70
PARTY5										
democrat..	50%	38%	2%	10%	41%	34%	12%	13%	1%	179
lean dem..	46%	41%	4%	9%	33%	38%	15%	11%	1%	90
ind & other..	46%	40%	6%	9%	37%	39%	11%	13%	1%	140
lean rep..	42%	46%	10%	2%	33%	44%	17%	6%		52
republican	43%	40%	2%	15%	32%	29%	17%	22%		65
AGE3										
under 40..	48%	42%	3%	6%	32%	42%	14%	10%		200
40 to 60..	54%	36%	5%	6%	45%	34%	13%	7%	1%	199
60 & over.	32%	44%	5%	19%	32%	28%	13%	26%	1%	114
EDUC3										
HS & less.	39%	39%	3%	19%	27%	42%	9%	20%	2%	182
2yr+some..	52%	37%	5%	6%	41%	36%	13%	10%		142
coll+post.	50%	43%	4%	3%	42%	30%	18%	9%		201
INCOME4										
30K+less..	37%	44%	6%	14%	27%	43%	11%	19%		124
30-50K....	52%	42%	3%	3%	42%	35%	19%	5%		127
50K+over..	53%	40%	5%	3%	38%	38%	16%	8%		146
refused...	44%	35%	4%	17%	43%	29%	7%	17%	3%	112
GENDER										
Male.....	50%	38%	4%	8%	36%	39%	13%	11%	0%	252
Female....	43%	42%	4%	10%	37%	34%	14%	15%	1%	274

ELECTRICITY RATES

As the electric power industry begins to move through a period of deregulation, a sense of the public's views of the in-state cost of power is becoming timely.

Respondents were asked how they think electric rates in Massachusetts compare to the rates in other states. Forty per cent say they are higher, and four per cent say they are lower, a margin of 36 points. Twenty-five per cent say they are about the same; 31% don't know or have no opinion.

The greatest variation is by age. Fifty-three per cent of those who are over 60 believe the rates in the state are higher, and four per cent say they are lower, a margin of 49 points. Thirteen per cent say they are about the same.

The 40% who say the electricity rates are higher were also asked an open-ended question, "Why do you think electricity rates are higher?" Their answers, expressed as percentages of the 211 respondents who were asked:

Mismanagement by utility companies:	25%
No opinion or don't know:	20%
High cost of oil and gas:	14%
High cost of importing oil and gas:	14%
Government regulation/gov't to blame:	10%
Nuclear power:	6%
Other reasons:	10%

All 525 of the respondents were then asked how they think the degree of the state's reliance on nuclear power compares to other state's reliance on it. Fifteen percent say Massachusetts relies on nuclear power more than other states, and 22% say it relies on it less than other states. Twenty- five percent say the state's reliance is about the same as other state's. And thirty-eight percent say they don't know or don't have an opinion.

	Question 13				Question 14							
	Compare MA Electricity Rates to Country				Why Do You Think Rates Are Higher							
	High	Low	About Same	no op dk	Impor Oil And Gas	Oil And Gas Costs	Nucke Power	Utili ty Misma nage	Gover nment Regs	Other	no op DK	TOTAL
RESPNDTS..	40%	4%	25%	31%	6%	6%	2%	10%	4%	5%	8%	213
registered voter												
yes.....	42%	3%	23%	31%	6%	6%	2%	11%	5%	5%	7%	190
no.....	25%	7%	42%	25%	1%	1%	1%	4%	1%	6%	9%	17
not sure DK.....	50%	8%		42%			17%	8%			25%	6
AREA												
617 area..	41%	3%	27%	28%	5%	4%	2%	11%	6%	6%	8%	75
508 area..	41%	4%	25%	31%	7%	7%	2%	9%	4%	5%	8%	113
413 area..	34%	4%	23%	39%	1%	3%	6%	11%	1%	4%	7%	24
PARTY5												
democrat..	37%	3%	29%	31%	5%	5%	3%	9%	4%	6%	5%	67
lean dem..	43%		24%	33%	8%	5%	1%	9%	7%	4%	9%	39
ind & other..	40%	4%	25%	31%	4%	4%	3%	13%	4%	3%	9%	56
lean rep..	40%	10%	17%	33%	12%	8%		2%	4%	8%	8%	21
republican	46%	5%	23%	26%	3%	8%	5%	12%	2%	6%	11%	30
AGE3												
under 40..	31%	4%	28%	36%	2%	3%	2%	8%	5%	4%	6%	64
40 to 60..	42%	4%	29%	25%	8%	6%	2%	11%	4%	6%	7%	84
60 & over.	53%	4%	13%	31%	6%	8%	5%	12%	4%	6%	11%	60
EDUC3												
HS & less.	41%	5%	20%	34%	5%	3%	3%	12%	7%	4%	8%	75
2yr+some..	36%	3%	27%	34%	5%	6%	3%	8%	3%	2%	9%	52
coll+post.	43%	2%	28%	27%	6%	8%	2%	9%	2%	8%	7%	86
INCOME4												
30K+less..	42%	6%	20%	32%	3%	6%	2%	8%	7%	5%	10%	52
30-50K....	35%	2%	35%	28%	5%	4%	1%	10%	2%	6%	8%	46
50K+over..	40%	4%	29%	27%	7%	8%	1%	8%	4%	5%	7%	58
refused...	44%	2%	15%	39%	8%	4%	7%	13%	3%	4%	6%	50
GENDER												
Male.....	42%	4%	23%	32%	6%	9%	2%	11%	4%	4%	6%	105
Female....	39%	3%	28%	30%	5%	3%	3%	9%	5%	6%	10%	108

Question 15

	Does Mass Rely on Nuclear Power More Than Other States			
	More	Less	About Same	no op DK
RESPNDTS..	15%	22%	25%	38%
registered voter				
yes.....	15%	22%	26%	37%
no.....	18%	22%	18%	42%
not sure DK.....	8%	17%	25%	50%
AREA				
617 area..	16%	21%	27%	36%
508 area..	15%	24%	23%	38%
413 area..	13%	14%	26%	47%
PARTY5				
democrat..	16%	21%	21%	42%
lean dem..	16%	20%	32%	32%
ind & other..	17%	21%	24%	37%
lean rep..	13%	25%	23%	38%
republican	6%	26%	29%	38%
AGE3				
under 40..	8%	20%	25%	47%
40 to 60..	24%	23%	29%	25%
60 & over.	12%	24%	20%	44%
EDUC3				
HS & less.	14%	16%	24%	46%
2yr+some..	16%	20%	24%	39%
coll+post.	15%	28%	26%	31%
INCOME4				
30K+less..	11%	14%	31%	44%
30-50K....	11%	27%	31%	31%
50K+over..	21%	29%	25%	25%
refused...	14%	17%	12%	57%
GENDER				
Male.....	18%	26%	26%	30%
Female....	12%	18%	24%	46%

CASINO GAMBLING

A plurality of the public is opposed to state-run casino gambling: 36% say they favor it and 47% say they oppose it, for a margin against of 11 points.

The chief variation is by age. Those under 40 are closely divided: 40% favor it and 38% oppose it, for a favorable margin of two points. Among those 60 and over, 19% are in favor, 68% are opposed, for a 49-point margin against casinos.

Two other demographic groups are also closely divided. Among those with some college, 45% favor state casinos and 41% oppose them, for a favorable margin of four points. Among those with high school or less, there is an eight-point margin against state casinos: 35% for, 43% against. Among college graduates and postgraduates, the margin against is 25 points: 31% for, 56% against. Among those in the $30,000-to-$50,000 bracket, 46% are in favor, 42% are opposed, a favorable margin of four points. Among those with higher and lower incomes, the opposed percentage exceeds the favorable.

The degree of opposition in Western Massachusetts is larger than in the rest of the state: 30% for state casinos, and 54% against, a margin against of 24 points.

The degree of opposition to privately-run casinos is somewhat greater: 29% favor them and 53% oppose them, for a margin against of 24 points.

Within each age group, at least a plurality is opposed to private casinos, and each plurality exceeds the favorable percentage by a double digit margin: 18 points for the under-40s, 13 points for the 40-to-60s, and 55 points for the 60-and-overs. A roughly similar pattern holds at each level of education.

Among income groups, the $30,000-to-$50,000 range is fairly evenly divided: 41% for private casinos, 48% against, a margin against of seven points. The other income groups are opposed. Among those under $30,000, the margin against is 33 points, 20% for and 53% against. Among those over $50,000, 29% are for, 55% are against, for an unfavorable margin of 26 points.

If private casinos did become legal in the state, 81% of the public believes that Native Americans should not be the only group entitled to own the casinos. Nine percent say Native Americans should be the only such group.

Sixty-three percent of the public thinks that the extent of Native American gambling rights in Massachusetts should be decided by the state government. Nineteen percent think it should be decided by the federal government. Eight percent believe it should be decided by neither.

	Question 29				Question 30				
	Favor or Oppose State Run Casino Gambling				Favor or Oppose Casino Gambling By Private Co.				TOTAL
	Favor	Oppose	Don't Care	no op DK	Favor	Oppose	Don't Care	no op DK	
RESPNDTS..	36%	47%	11%	5%	29%	53%	11%	7%	527
registered voter									
yes.....	36%	50%	10%	5%	28%	55%	11%	6%	448
no.....	39%	34%	19%	7%	36%	43%	13%	7%	67
not sure DK.....	50%	33%	8%	8%	33%	25%	8%	33%	12
AREA									
617 area..	36%	49%	11%	4%	31%	50%	11%	8%	179
508 area..	38%	45%	11%	6%	28%	53%	11%	8%	277
413 area..	30%	54%	10%	6%	30%	59%	10%	1%	70
PARTY5									
democrat..	42%	44%	9%	5%	29%	53%	9%	8%	179
lean dem..	32%	49%	13%	5%	26%	56%	13%	4%	91
ind & other..	37%	44%	12%	6%	31%	49%	12%	9%	140
lean rep..	25%	56%	13%	6%	25%	56%	12%	8%	52
republican	34%	54%	9%	3%	32%	55%	9%	3%	65
AGE3									
under 40..	40%	38%	15%	6%	30%	48%	14%	7%	201
40 to 60..	41%	46%	9%	5%	37%	50%	9%	5%	199
60 & over.	19%	68%	9%	4%	13%	68%	10%	10%	114
EDUC3									
HS & less.	35%	43%	15%	7%	28%	50%	14%	8%	182
2yr+some..	45%	41%	10%	5%	34%	48%	11%	7%	143
coll+post.	31%	56%	8%	4%	26%	59%	8%	6%	201
INCOME4									
30K+less..	34%	43%	14%	10%	20%	53%	16%	10%	124
30-50K....	46%	42%	9%	3%	41%	48%	8%	3%	127
50K+over..	36%	51%	8%	4%	29%	55%	10%	5%	146
refused...	30%	53%	12%	4%	27%	54%	10%	10%	113
GENDER									
Male.....	39%	46%	9%	6%	33%	50%	9%	8%	253
Female....	34%	48%	13%	5%	26%	55%	12%	7%	274

	Question 31				Question 32				
	Should American Indians Only Group Able to Own Casinos				Who Should Decide American Indian Gambling Rights in Massachusetts				TOTAL
	Yes	No	Maybe	Don't Know	Feds	State	Neither	no op DK	
RESPNDTS..	9%	80%	6%	5%	19%	63%	8%	10%	527
registered voter									
yes.....	9%	81%	6%	5%	19%	62%	9%	10%	448
no.....	13%	81%	4%	1%	18%	67%	4%	10%	67
not sure DK.....		75%	17%	8%	17%	58%		25%	12
AREA									
617 area..	7%	82%	7%	4%	23%	61%	7%	9%	179
508 area..	12%	78%	6%	4%	16%	66%	8%	11%	277
413 area..	4%	86%	1%	9%	21%	57%	10%	11%	70
PARTY5									
democrat..	10%	81%	3%	6%	21%	59%	8%	11%	179
lean dem..	10%	84%	1%	5%	22%	63%	8%	8%	91
ind & other..	10%	74%	13%	3%	11%	65%	9%	14%	140
lean rep..	8%	85%	2%	6%	25%	65%	6%	4%	52
republican	6%	85%	6%	3%	20%	66%	6%	8%	65
AGE3									
under 40..	8%	83%	6%	2%	16%	64%	8%	12%	201
40 to 60..	10%	82%	4%	5%	24%	62%	6%	8%	199
60 & over.	11%	75%	7%	8%	15%	63%	11%	11%	114
EDUC3									
HS & less.	9%	82%	5%	3%	14%	63%	12%	12%	182
2yr+some..	10%	78%	6%	7%	16%	68%	6%	10%	143
coll+post.	9%	81%	6%	4%	25%	59%	6%	9%	201
INCOME4									
30K+less..	8%	85%	3%	3%	12%	73%	6%	8%	124
30-50K....	6%	86%	4%	5%	18%	69%	8%	5%	127
50K+over..	8%	87%	3%	2%	29%	60%	5%	5%	146
refused...	18%	59%	14%	9%	14%	50%	12%	25%	113
GENDER									
Male.....	10%	79%	7%	4%	24%	58%	7%	11%	253
Female....	8%	82%	4%	5%	14%	68%	9%	9%	274

ELECTORAL POLITICS

In the presidential race, President Clinton was leading Senator Dole, 54% to 20%, with six percent for Ross Perot. Twenty percent were undecided.

Clinton was leading among both men and women, though his lead among women, 60% to 18%, for a margin of 42 points, exceeded his lead among men, 47% to 22%, a margin of 25 points.

Dole led with GOP voters by 51 points, 65% to 14%, and with Republican leaners by 41 points, 58% to 17%. Among Democrats, Clinton led by 76 points, 83% to seven per cent. Among Democrat leaners, he led by 72 points, 76% to four per cent.

In the Senate race, the survey's snapshot of electoral opinion in early October found Governor Weld and Senator Kerry in a statistical dead heat.

In a four-way matchup, Weld was at 40% and Kerry at 35%, with two percent going to Susan Gallagher and less than one percent going to Michael Stowe. In a two-way matchup, the governor was at 42% and the senator at 36%.

In both match-ups, Weld was holding down Kerry's margins among Democrats. In the four-way race, Kerry led Weld by 22 points with Democrats, 53% to 21%, with 25% undecided. Kerry led with Democrat leaners by 12 points, 45% to 33%. Seventeen pe cent of these voters said they were undecided.

In the two-way contest, Kerry led with Democrats by 28 points, 51% to 23%, with 25% undecided. He led by 13 points among those who leaned to the Democrats, 48% to 35%, with 17% undecided.

In the four-way contest, Weld led among Republicans by 67 points, 75% to eight percent, and among GOP leaners by 68 points, 73% to 15%, with eight percent undecided. In the two-way, he led among Republicans by 63 points, 74% to 11%. Among GOP leaners, he led by 69 points, 83% to 14%, with four points undecided.

	Question 33				Question 34					
	If the Presidential Election Were Held Today				If the Senate Election Were Held Today: 4 Way					TOTAL
	Clinton	Dole	Perot	undecided	Weld	Kerry	Gallagher	Stowe	undecided	
RESPNDTS..	54%	20%	6%	21%	39%	33%	3%	0%	24%	527
registered voter										
yes.....	54%	20%	6%	20%	40%	35%	2%	0%	23%	448
no.....	51%	15%	7%	27%	33%	25%	6%		36%	67
not sure DK.....	50%	25%	8%	17%	58%	8%			33%	12
AREA										
617 area..	61%	17%	4%	18%	41%	32%	3%	1%	23%	179
508 area..	48%	22%	8%	23%	38%	35%	2%	0%	25%	277
413 area..	57%	16%	6%	21%	39%	31%	3%		27%	70
PARTY5										
democrat..	83%	7%	1%	8%	21%	53%	2%		25%	179
lean dem..	76%	4%	8%	12%	33%	45%	3%	2%	16%	91
ind & other..	33%	10%	9%	48%	37%	20%	4%		39%	140
lean rep..	17%	58%	12%	13%	73%	15%	4%		8%	52
republican	14%	65%	6%	15%	75%	8%	2%		15%	65
AGE3										
under 40..	56%	15%	9%	20%	37%	34%	1%	0%	26%	201
40 to 60..	60%	20%	5%	16%	38%	34%	4%	1%	24%	199
60 & over.	41%	28%	4%	27%	44%	33%	3%		20%	114
EDUC3										
HS & less.	48%	19%	8%	25%	39%	30%	5%		25%	182
2yr+some..	57%	17%	6%	20%	38%	34%	1%	1%	24%	143
coll+post.	56%	21%	5%	17%	40%	36%	1%		23%	201
INCOME4										
30K+less..	60%	14%	4%	22%	33%	41%	2%	1%	23%	124
30-50K....	57%	20%	4%	18%	37%	34%	5%		24%	127
50K+over..	55%	25%	10%	10%	49%	26%	1%	1%	23%	146
refused...	44%	17%	4%	35%	35%	33%	3%		29%	113
GENDER										
Male.....	47%	22%	8%	24%	42%	30%	3%	0%	25%	253
Female....	59%	18%	5%	18%	36%	36%	2%	0%	24%	274

Question 35

	Senate Election Held Today: 2 way			TOTAL
	Kerry	Weld	undecided	
RESPNDTS..	35%	41%	24%	527
registered voter				
yes.....	36%	42%	22%	448
no.....	28%	34%	37%	67
not sure DK.....	8%	58%	33%	12
AREA				
617 area..	33%	43%	24%	179
508 area..	35%	41%	24%	277
413 area..	36%	36%	29%	70
PARTY5				
democrat..	51%	23%	26%	179
lean dem..	48%	35%	16%	91
ind & other..	23%	37%	40%	140
lean rep..	13%	83%	4%	52
republican	11%	74%	15%	65
AGE3				
under 40..	38%	38%	24%	201
40 to 60..	35%	40%	25%	199
60 & over.	30%	48%	22%	114
EDUC3				
HS & less.	32%	42%	26%	182
2yr+some..	36%	40%	24%	143
coll+post.	36%	41%	23%	201
INCOME4				
30K+less..	44%	35%	21%	124
30-50K....	35%	40%	25%	127
50K+over..	27%	51%	22%	146
refused...	33%	36%	31%	113
GENDER				
Male.....	32%	43%	25%	253
Female....	36%	39%	24%	274

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Board of Education has called for raising the limit on the number of charter schools from 25 to 75. The Board proposal must be approved by the General Court. So a sense of the public's view of these schools is timely.

Forty-four percent of the public says it has heard or read about charter schools. The parents of children under the age of 18 are more likely to say they know of them than are people who din't have school-age children. Fifty-four percent of these parents know something about charter schools. Of those who don't have children under 18, 39% say they know something.

Of those who have heard or read about charter schools, 69% favor them and 16% oppose them, for a margin of 53 points. Fifteen percent don't know or have no opinion. Among those who know about charter schools, those who are also parents of children under 18 are slightly more likely to support them: 74% for and 14% against, a favorable margin of 60 points.

Two-thirds of the parents who have heard or read about charter schools say they would be likely to send a child to one if such a school were available in their area. Nineteen percent of favorable parents say they are unlikely to do so.

Of all of the parents of children under 18, roughly one-third say they are likely to send a child to a charter school, if one were available in their area.

	Question 36					Question 37			
	How Much Have You Read or Heard About Charter Schools					Do You Favor or Oppose Charter Schools			TOTAL
	A Great Deal	Quite A Bit	Know Some thing	Pract Nothi ng	DK Not Sure	Favor	Oppos e	no op DK	
RESPNDTS..	9%	11%	24%	42%	14%	30%	7%	7%	232
registered voter									
yes.....	9%	13%	25%	39%	13%	33%	8%	6%	212
no.....	10%		15%	58%	16%	16%	3%	6%	17
not sure DK.....		17%	8%	58%	17%	8%		17%	3
AREA									
617 area..	10%	10%	22%	44%	14%	28%	7%	6%	75
508 area..	8%	12%	24%	42%	14%	30%	7%	6%	121
413 area..	11%	10%	29%	37%	13%	34%	6%	10%	35
PARTY5									
democrat..	10%	8%	23%	43%	16%	24%	9%	7%	72
lean dem..	5%	10%	21%	51%	13%	25%	8%	3%	33
ind & other..	11%	11%	23%	42%	12%	29%	9%	9%	64
lean rep..	4%	19%	33%	35%	10%	46%	2%	8%	29
republican	12%	14%	25%	34%	15%	46%	2%	5%	34
AGE3									
under 40..	7%	10%	22%	50%	11%	28%	5%	6%	78
40 to 60..	15%	12%	23%	38%	12%	37%	9%	5%	100
60 & over.	4%	12%	27%	33%	23%	27%	9%	8%	50
EDUC3									
HS & less.	3%	6%	15%	53%	22%	14%	5%	5%	44
2yr+some..	9%	8%	24%	45%	14%	27%	8%	6%	59
coll+post.	15%	18%	31%	30%	6%	48%	8%	8%	129
INCOME4									
30K+less..	6%	7%	22%	48%	18%	25%	6%	4%	44
30-50K....	10%	13%	27%	45%	5%	36%	8%	6%	63
50K+over..	16%	14%	29%	30%	10%	42%	9%	8%	87
refused...	4%	11%	17%	47%	21%	18%	5%	9%	36
GENDER									
Male.....	9%	9%	25%	43%	12%	30%	7%	7%	112
Female....	9%	12%	22%	41%	15%	30%	7%	7%	120

	Question 38			Question 39					
	Do You Have Any Children Under 18 Years Old			Are You Likely to Send Your Child(ren) to a Charter School					TOTAL
	Yes	No	Refused	Very Likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Very Likely	Not Sure dk	
RESPNDTS..	36%	63%	1%	6%	9%	9%	2%	10%	188
registered voter									
yes.....	35%	64%	1%	6%	9%	9%	2%	10%	159
no.....	40%	60%		6%	7%	9%	1%	16%	27
not sure DK.....	17%	58%	25%	8%		8%			2
AREA									
617 area..	36%	64%	1%	5%	9%	7%	3%	11%	64
508 area..	35%	63%	2%	5%	8%	10%	1%	10%	98
413 area..	36%	63%	1%	7%	7%	9%	3%	10%	25
PARTY5									
democrat..	34%	64%	2%	4%	7%	10%	1%	12%	61
lean dem..	37%	60%	2%	4%	8%	7%	7%	12%	34
ind & other..	36%	64%		9%	6%	9%	1%	10%	50
lean rep..	40%	60%		4%	17%	12%		8%	21
republican	34%	63%	3%	6%	11%	5%	5%	8%	22
AGE3									
under 40..	47%	52%	1%	8%	11%	10%	3%	15%	95
40 to 60..	42%	57%	1%	6%	12%	13%	3%	10%	84
60 & over.	3%	96%	2%	2%			1%		3
EDUC3									
HS & less.	27%	70%	3%	2%	6%	8%	2%	9%	49
2yr+some..	41%	58%	1%	6%	9%	8%	3%	15%	58
coll+post.	40%	60%		9%	10%	10%	2%	8%	80
INCOME4									
30K+less..	24%	75%	1%	4%	5%	5%	2%	9%	30
30-50K....	48%	52%		8%	17%	7%	4%	13%	61
50K+over..	43%	57%		6%	11%	14%	2%	10%	63
refused...	26%	69%	5%	4%	2%	8%	2%	10%	29
GENDER									
Male.....	38%	61%	1%	6%	8%	9%	2%	12%	95
Female....	34%	65%	1%	5%	9%	8%	3%	9%	93

THE GENDER GAP ON CANDIDATES AND POLICIES

The poll examined data relevant to a "gender gap" in the preferences of women and men in Massachusetts regarding candidates and public policies. The data demonstrated statistically significant differences between men and women on some candidates in the fall election and on a range of policy issues.

For example, the poll found a significant differences between men and women regarding the presidential race, with women more strongly favoring Clinton over Dole (60% to 18%) than men (47% to 22%). A month before the election, nearly 20% of male voters versus 14% of female voters had not yet made up their minds on the presidential contest.

Overall, the poll showed a virtual deadheat between the incumbent, Sen. John F. Kerry, and the challenger, Gov. William Weld. The data showed no evidence of a gender gap in the senatorial race with Weld favored by women over Kerry 39% to 36% and by men 43% to 32%..

The poll also revealed a statistically significant gender gap on a range of policy questions. On issues related to work and family, the poll showed that Massachusetts women are significantly more concerned about funding of day care than men. Among women, 67% rated government funding for child care a top or very important priority compared to 55% of men. However, child care, arguably one of the most pressing problems for working families, has not emerged as a leading state policy issue.

The data also revealed that more Massachusetts women than men feel government should do more to prevent violence (72% to 64%). Again, violence prevention was not a central issue in the fall campaign.

With respect to the abortion issue, a sizeable gender gap exists in Massachusetts on whether a constitutional amendment is needed to keep abortion legal. Women were in favor by a wide margin of 60% of women compared to 43% of men.

On women's political leadership, the poll found a very significant gender gap with 51% of women saying the country would be better off with more women in political leadership versus 32% of men holding that view.

The poll also revealed that men and women agree on a number of issues. When asked to list the issues that mattered to them, there was general agreement on the following fronts:

*Public education (26% women, 21% men)
*The economy (15% women, 21% men)
*Drugs (14% women, 16% men)
*Crime (14% women, 14% men)

A very high percentage of men and women agree that government should provide health care for those who can't afford to pay (82% women, 80% men).

QUESTION 4

	Which Issue Do You Worry About Most											
	Economy	Education	Drugs	Taxes	Equal Pay	Environment	Health	Crime	Abortion	None	DK	TOTAL
RESPNDTS..	18%	23%	15%	10%	2%	4%	7%	14%	4%	1%	2%	527
registered voter												
yes.....	17%	23%	14%	10%	2%	4%	8%	14%	5%	1%	2%	448
no.....	13%	28%	27%	6%	1%	4%	4%	10%		1%	3%	67
not sure DK.....	50%	8%	8%					33%				12
AREA												
617 area..	17%	28%	15%	11%	1%	4%	6%	16%	1%		2%	179
508 area..	18%	21%	16%	9%	2%	4%	8%	13%	5%	1%	3%	277
413 area..	17%	21%	13%	9%	3%	7%	9%	14%	7%			70
PARTY5												
democrat..	18%	23%	17%	9%	2%	5%	9%	9%	4%	1%	2%	179
lean dem..	12%	34%	15%	5%	1%	5%	7%	15%	2%		2%	91
ind & other..	24%	22%	12%	11%	2%	3%	4%	16%	2%	1%	1%	140
lean rep..	13%	17%	12%	17%	2%	2%	10%	19%	6%	2%		52
republican	14%	17%	20%	6%		6%	8%	17%	9%		3%	65
AGE3												
under 40..	19%	31%	12%	8%	0%	5%	5%	13%	4%	1%	0%	201
40 to 60..	19%	19%	19%	10%	4%	3%	6%	15%	4%	1%	3%	199
60 & over.	13%	18%	16%	11%	1%	5%	15%	13%	5%		2%	114
EDUC3												
HS & less.	18%	20%	16%	10%	1%	3%	9%	16%	4%	1%	1%	182
2yr+some..	21%	17%	20%	13%	5%	2%	4%	11%	4%	1%	1%	143
coll+post.	15%	30%	11%	7%		7%	8%	14%	4%	0%	3%	201
INCOME4												
30K+less..	11%	21%	14%	15%	2%	5%	11%	12%	6%	2%	2%	124
30-50K....	13%	24%	20%	8%		3%	10%	17%	2%	1%	2%	127
50K+over..	18%	26%	14%	8%	3%	8%	3%	13%	5%		1%	146
refused...	30%	21%	12%	8%	2%	1%	6%	13%	3%	1%	3%	113
GENDER												
Male.....	21%	21%	16%	10%	1%	5%	5%	14%	4%	1%	2%	253
Female....	15%	26%	14%	9%	3%	4%	9%	14%	4%	0%	2%	274

QUESTION 5

	What Are the Biggest Problems for People at Work Today										TOTAL
	Sex Haras	Few Medic Bene	Dis-crim Pay	Job Hire Promo	Poor tr and edu	Comb ret bene	All Work & Fam	None above	no op	dk	
RESPNDTS..	2%	15%	23%	8%	10%	11%	21%	4%	2%	5%	527
registered voter											
yes.....	2%	15%	22%	8%	10%	11%	21%	4%	2%	5%	448
no.....	1%	12%	30%	13%	6%	12%	18%	3%		4%	67
not sure DK.....	17%	42%	17%			8%	17%				12
AREA											
617 area..	2%	15%	21%	9%	12%	12%	22%	2%		4%	179
508 area..	1%	15%	24%	6%	8%	12%	21%	5%	2%	5%	277
413 area..	3%	16%	24%	13%	7%	7%	16%	6%	4%	4%	70
PARTY5											
democrat..	3%	17%	28%	9%	9%	9%	13%	5%	1%	5%	179
lean dem..	2%	15%	21%	4%	13%	12%	26%	1%	1%	3%	91
ind & other..	1%	16%	26%	9%	4%	11%	21%	5%	2%	4%	140
lean rep..		6%	13%	10%	15%	17%	33%			6%	52
republican		12%	12%	8%	12%	11%	25%	8%	6%	6%	65
AGE3											
under 40..	1%	17%	26%	8%	9%	8%	21%	2%	2%	4%	201
40 to 60..	2%	12%	27%	8%	11%	11%	23%	5%	2%	1%	199
60 & over.	2%	18%	13%	9%	9%	15%	17%	5%	1%	12%	114
EDUC3											
HS & less.	2%	18%	24%	7%	8%	12%	14%	7%	2%	8%	182
2yr+some..	3%	13%	30%	10%	10%	10%	16%	2%	1%	3%	143
coll+post.	1%	14%	17%	8%	11%	11%	30%	2%	2%	2%	201
INCOME4											
30K+less..	2%	13%	26%	9%	9%	12%	15%	6%		8%	124
30-50K....	3%	14%	25%	10%	13%	12%	17%		1%	4%	127
50K+over..	1%	14%	21%	7%	12%	8%	29%	3%	3%	1%	146
refused...	2%	19%	18%	8%	3%	13%	21%	7%	4%	5%	113
GENDER											
Male.....	2%	16%	20%	8%	11%	14%	20%	4%	2%	4%	253
Female....	2%	14%	26%	9%	8%	8%	22%	4%	2%	5%	274

Question 6

	What is the Biggest Problem for Most People in Combining Work and Family							TOTAL
	Day Care	Work Hours	Sick Leave	Safety	All	None	no op dk	
RESPNDTS..	27%	29%	20%	5%	5%	6%	8%	527
registered voter								
yes.....	27%	28%	19%	5%	6%	6%	8%	448
no.....	25%	28%	27%	4%		3%	12%	67
not sure DK.....	25%	50%	17%	8%				12
AREA								
617 area..	28%	31%	22%	6%	3%	6%	5%	179
508 area..	25%	27%	21%	5%	5%	6%	11%	277
413 area..	34%	27%	16%	4%	10%	6%	3%	70
PARTY5								
democrat..	30%	27%	26%	5%	4%	2%	7%	179
lean dem..	27%	31%	18%	7%	8%	5%	4%	91
ind & other..	24%	31%	18%	6%	4%	6%	11%	140
lean rep..	25%	31%	19%		4%	13%	8%	52
republican	25%	25%	15%	8%	6%	12%	9%	65
AGE3								
under 40..	27%	30%	19%	8%	3%	7%	6%	201
40 to 60..	26%	30%	26%	3%	6%	5%	5%	199
60 & over.	30%	23%	15%	4%	4%	7%	17%	114
EDUC3								
HS & less.	26%	26%	20%	8%	6%	5%	9%	182
2yr+some..	28%	28%	21%	5%	6%	6%	7%	143
coll+post.	27%	32%	20%	3%	3%	7%	7%	201
INCOME4								
30K+less..	27%	27%	15%	9%	5%	3%	14%	124
30-50K....	22%	29%	35%	6%	1%	2%	6%	127
50K+over..	32%	30%	21%	3%	4%	8%	2%	146
refused...	23%	30%	11%	4%	11%	12%	11%	113
GENDER								
Male.....	22%	30%	20%	8%	4%	7%	9%	253
Female....	32%	28%	20%	3%	6%	5%	7%	274

	Question 7					Question 8					
	Things Government Might Do: Pay for Day Care					Things Government Might Do: Guarantee Health Insurance					TOTAL
	Top	Very Impor	Some-what	Not At All	No Opin dk	Top	Very Impor	Some-what	Not At All	No Opin dk	
RESPNDTS..	29%	32%	23%	14%	2%	50%	30%	10%	7%	2%	527
registered voter											
yes.....	29%	31%	23%	15%	2%	50%	29%	11%	8%	2%	448
no.....	25%	42%	24%	7%	1%	49%	39%	7%	3%	1%	67
not sure DK.....	50%	25%	8%	17%		58%	25%	8%	8%		12
AREA											
617 area..	35%	30%	18%	15%	3%	52%	29%	9%	8%	2%	179
508 area..	28%	34%	23%	14%	1%	51%	29%	11%	6%	2%	277
413 area..	20%	30%	34%	14%	1%	40%	40%	11%	9%		70
PARTY5											
democrat..	40%	32%	18%	7%	3%	63%	26%	4%	3%	3%	179
lean dem..	37%	37%	16%	9%		51%	38%	7%	4%		91
ind & other..	21%	33%	23%	21%	1%	46%	32%	13%	7%	2%	140
lean rep..	8%	29%	40%	23%		27%	29%	27%	15%	2%	52
republican	20%	26%	31%	20%	3%	42%	28%	14%	17%		65
AGE3											
under 40..	29%	37%	21%	10%	2%	50%	34%	7%	5%	2%	201
40 to 60..	33%	32%	24%	12%		53%	28%	13%	6%	1%	199
60 & over.	23%	24%	25%	25%	4%	47%	25%	11%	14%	2%	114
EDUC3											
HS & less.	28%	31%	21%	18%	2%	55%	26%	8%	8%	2%	182
2yr+some..	35%	30%	22%	12%	1%	47%	33%	13%	6%	1%	143
coll+post.	26%	34%	24%	13%	2%	48%	32%	10%	7%	2%	201
INCOME4											
30K+less..	29%	35%	21%	13%	2%	50%	32%	7%	7%	3%	124
30-50K....	31%	38%	20%	10%	1%	52%	33%	11%	4%		127
50K+over..	34%	27%	25%	14%		51%	27%	12%	9%	1%	146
refused...	21%	28%	26%	19%	5%	48%	27%	12%	9%	4%	113
GENDER											
Male.....	27%	28%	27%	17%	1%	51%	28%	10%	10%	1%	253
Female....	31%	36%	19%	11%	3%	49%	33%	11%	4%	3%	274

	Question 9					Question 10					
	Things Government Might Do: Programs to Prevent Violence					Things Government Might Do: Laws against Discrimination					TOTAL
	Top	Very Impor	Some what	Not At All	no opin dk	Top	Very Impor	Some what	Not At All	no opin dk	
RESPNDTS..	36%	32%	19%	9%	3%	32%	31%	20%	12%	5%	527
registered voter											
yes.....	36%	30%	21%	9%	3%	32%	29%	21%	13%	5%	448
no.....	40%	45%	9%	4%	1%	33%	39%	19%	7%	1%	67
not sure DK.....	33%	17%	8%	25%	17%	25%	50%	8%		17%	12
AREA											
617 area..	35%	30%	21%	11%	3%	30%	31%	20%	11%	7%	179
508 area..	39%	31%	18%	8%	4%	34%	30%	20%	12%	4%	277
413 area..	31%	37%	21%	9%	1%	29%	31%	24%	13%	3%	70
PARTY5											
democrat..	46%	28%	19%	4%	3%	40%	34%	16%	7%	4%	179
lean dem..	42%	30%	23%	5%		40%	36%	14%	8%	2%	91
ind & other..	26%	36%	18%	15%	5%	27%	28%	22%	15%	8%	140
lean rep..	21%	37%	19%	19%	4%	17%	27%	33%	19%	4%	52
republican	37%	32%	17%	8%	6%	23%	25%	29%	17%	6%	65
AGE3											
under 40..	35%	36%	19%	7%	3%	31%	35%	21%	9%	4%	201
40 to 60..	40%	31%	18%	10%	2%	38%	31%	18%	11%	3%	199
60 & over.	33%	27%	22%	12%	5%	27%	23%	25%	17%	9%	114
EDUC3											
HS & less.	42%	33%	14%	9%	3%	34%	31%	19%	10%	6%	182
2yr+some..	36%	33%	18%	9%	3%	39%	24%	24%	8%	4%	143
coll+post.	31%	30%	25%	9%	4%	26%	35%	19%	15%	5%	201
INCOME4											
30K+less..	44%	31%	20%	2%	2%	35%	33%	23%	6%	4%	124
30-50K....	42%	30%	20%	7%	1%	38%	35%	17%	9%	1%	127
50K+over..	32%	35%	21%	10%	2%	27%	31%	25%	16%	2%	146
refused...	32%	27%	16%	18%	8%	32%	23%	15%	15%	15%	113
GENDER											
Male.....	34%	30%	19%	13%	4%	28%	28%	22%	16%	6%	253
Female....	39%	33%	19%	5%	3%	36%	33%	19%	7%	4%	274

	Question 11					Question 12				
	Thing Government Might Do:Amendment Keeping Abortion Legal					If Half Leaders Women: Better/ Worse/No Diff				TOTAL
	Top	Very Impor	Some what	Not At All	no opin dk	Bette	Worse	No Diff	no op dk	
RESPNDTS..	32%	23%	14%	25%	6%	42%	5%	47%	7%	527
registered voter										
yes.....	33%	22%	14%	25%	6%	41%	5%	47%	7%	448
no.....	28%	28%	15%	24%	4%	49%	3%	45%	3%	67
not sure DK.....	8%	25%	17%	33%	17%	17%	8%	50%	25%	12
AREA										
617 area..	35%	25%	15%	21%	5%	47%	4%	41%	7%	179
508 area..	31%	19%	14%	27%	8%	39%	6%	50%	5%	277
413 area..	33%	30%	9%	26%	3%	40%	1%	49%	10%	70
PARTY5										
democrat..	45%	22%	13%	16%	4%	49%	4%	39%	8%	179
lean dem..	40%	29%	12%	13%	7%	48%	3%	48%		91
ind & other..	25%	19%	17%	29%	11%	36%	4%	50%	10%	140
lean rep..	10%	21%	17%	50%	2%	21%	6%	69%	4%	52
republican	20%	28%	9%	37%	6%	38%	12%	42%	8%	65
AGE3										
under 40..	34%	28%	17%	16%	4%	35%	4%	56%	5%	201
40 to 60..	37%	23%	11%	24%	6%	52%	4%	40%	5%	199
60 & over.	22%	14%	13%	42%	9%	35%	8%	46%	11%	114
EDUC3										
HS & less.	29%	18%	15%	29%	9%	39%	7%	46%	8%	182
2yr+some..	42%	21%	14%	17%	6%	45%	6%	44%	5%	143
coll+post.	28%	29%	12%	26%	4%	41%	2%	50%	6%	201
INCOME4										
30K+less..	29%	23%	17%	25%	6%	40%	5%	47%	8%	124
30-50K....	31%	31%	16%	17%	4%	35%	5%	55%	5%	127
50K+over..	35%	23%	8%	32%	3%	47%	5%	45%	2%	146
refused...	35%	12%	16%	23%	15%	39%	4%	44%	13%	113
GENDER										
Male.....	28%	22%	11%	29%	9%	32%	6%	56%	7%	253
Female....	36%	24%	16%	20%	4%	51%	4%	39%	6%	274